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NOTE CONCERNING THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF JUNE 8, 1918

Of the three eclipses of the year 1918 that of June 8th, a total solar eclipse, deserves special attention in this country. The path of totality extends from the State of Washington to Florida, and as a partial eclipse it may be viewed in practically the entire United States.

Based upon the Besselian elements given in the *American Ephemeris* for 1918 the following results for Berkeley, Cal., have been derived:

Eclipse begins.....	1 ^h 49 ^m .3	P. S. T.
Middle of eclipse.....	3 10 .1	"
Eclipse ends.....	4 21 .8	"
Percentage of total eclipse=	0.79	
Position angle of point of contact: beginning.....	290°	
ending.....	86	

HAMILTON M. JEFFERS

CARLOS S. MUNDT

Berkeley Astronomical Department,
January 20, 1918

THE LICK OBSERVATORY ECLIPSE INSTRUMENTS

The Crocker Eclipse Expedition from the Lick Observatory attempted to observe the total solar eclipse on August 21, 1914, at a station on the northern edge of the village Brovary, twelve miles easterly from the City of Kiev, Russia, but thick clouds prevented.

The instruments and supplies, in personal charge of Dr. Curtis, had entered Russia early in July, thru the port of Libau on the coast of the Baltic Sea between Riga and Koenigsberg. The Russian Government, acting thru the Imperial Academy of Sciences of Petrograd, had facilitated the transport of the equipment from Libau to the observing station and had otherwise extended valuable favors.

The instruments were dismantled immediately after the eclipse, and made ready for the return shipment, but railway freight service in Russia, at least in the region of Kiev, was devoted exclusively to the requirements of the war. Further, all Baltic Sea sailings from Russia had been suspended. The wisest disposition of the instruments seemed to be to store them for safe-keeping in Russia until after the close of the war. The advice and assistance of

the late Professor Backlund, Director of the National Observatory at Pulkowa, was requested, and he kindly offered to have the instruments stored in the Pulkowa Observatory for the duration of the war if we could arrange to deliver them at that point. The problem of transportation from Kiev to Pulkowa was brought to the attention of General Nicolskoy, a high official of the Russian Government living in Kiev, who was also an amateur astronomer. Thru his kind offices, an order from the military commandant of the district was obtained to place a freight car at our disposal, on the railway siding nearest to our station, and to transport that car to the railway station of the National Observatory at Pulkowa with as little delay as possible. The car was in due time attached to the passenger train running from Kiev to Moscow and thence to Petrograd.

At various times during the following three years, and especially during the second and third years, I wrote to Russia urging the return shipment of the instruments, but in these efforts I was disappointed. Fortunately, a prominent citizen of Berkeley and San Francisco, Mr. A. G. Freeman, with business interests in Russia, was going to Petrograd about the middle of 1917, and the University of California authorities supplied Mr. Freeman with the necessary credentials to comply with all governmental formalities to start the instruments on their way. The Imperial Academy of Sciences co-operated with Mr. Freeman, and the shipment left Pulkowa on August 15, 1917, via Siberia. A cable from Vladivostock on December 15 announced the arrival of our shipment, plus Professor Todd's Amherst college equipment at that port. Thru Mr. Freeman's kindness we dispatched a cable message immediately to Vladivostock, instructing as to the further shipment, and urging promptness. Not having received further information, we cabled again about the middle of February. We have had no information of any kind from Vladivostock or elsewhere as to the instruments since December 15.

It seems very doubtful that the equipment will arrive in time to make it ready, even in an eleventh-hour manner, for observation of the total eclipse of June 8. The constant expectation, since the middle of August, that the shipment would arrive, has prevented us from attempting to secure substitute equipment by loan or purchase elsewhere. The best we can hope for is that a very

modest expedition from the Lick Observatory may be dispatched to observe the eclipse phenomena. The *portable* equipment now available at Mount Hamilton is meager in quantity and power.

W. W. CAMPBELL

March 15, 1918

POSTSCRIPT

A cablegram from Vladivostock, received from Mr. Freeman's office on March 22nd, brought the information that the business boycott at Vladivostock has finally been raised, and that the Lick Observatory and Amherst Observatory eclipse instruments would be shipped from Vladivostock in the week of March 24th to 31st by Russian government steamer to Kobe, Japan. It is unnecessary to say that steamship lines connecting Kobe with American ports have instructions to secure and transport the instruments at the earliest possible moment. The censor's regulations concerning times and ports of arrival may withhold these items of information until after the shipment is in this country. If it arrives in time for use at the eclipse of June 8 we can scarcely hope for better than hasty eleventh-hour adaptation, mounting and testing of a part of the equipment, but we shall be prepared to do everything possible under the circumstances.

Regent William H. Crocker, good citizen of California and the nation, has most generously offered to defray the expenses of an expedition from the Lick Observatory, University of California, to observe the eclipse on whatever scale may be consistent with the instrumental equipment available. Professor Leuschner, Director of the Students' Observatory of the University of California, has thoughtfully and kindly offered the use of any equipment of the Students' Observatory suitable for eclipse observation. This offer will be accepted as to several important items of equipment. Continuing uncertainty as to the extent of the expedition leaves the question of personnel largely undetermined.

It has been definitely decided to locate the observing station at or near the village of Goldendale, Washington, about ninety miles east-north-east of Portland, Oregon, and some ten miles north of the Columbia River. The altitude of the floor of the valley in which Goldendale lies is about 1,600 feet, and the nature of the soil is said to be such that sand storms are not troublesome. Goldendale is very close to the central line of totality, and the